



EPHESIANS 5:22-33

GETTING STARTED...

"Isn't the Bible outdated?" Many people have said words like these, especially when it comes to the Bible's views around marriage and sexuality. And yet, when we take the time to look into what the Bible actually says, rather than assuming, and see the picture behind it, we realize that the Bible's teaching on marriage is beautiful! It is meant to be the loving union of a husband and a wife who are both committed to putting on display the love of God for the church. This means that as sinful people we are called to show perfect love, not something we can do on our own, but we need the help of the Holy Spirit to help our marriages.

READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:22-33

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What does Paul outline for a husband and a wife to do? How does this compare with 6:1-4, and 6:5-9?

2. In verse 31, Paul uses Genesis 2:24 as his basis for understanding marriage. How does seeing God's intention for marriage before the fall help us better understand God's plan in marriage now?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz What is something you want to change in your life to reflect the image of Jesus and the church?

Chilliwack That two sinners get married should keep us from an overly idealized and romanticized view of marriage; and that our text identifies marriage as a picture of the gospel should keep us from disparaging it. How is keeping Jesus the central focus of your role in marriage the key to your growth, your spouse's growth, and your marriage displaying the gospel? (For those who are not married, how have you seen this modelled/not modelled well? What character formation do you see Jesus wanting to do in you related to submission, respect, selflessness, and sacrifice?)

Harrison Husbands, describe the last time you went out of your way to sacrificially love your wives. Wives, what are the joys and challenges of submitting to your husbands? Everyone, how can the eternal marriage relationship between Christ and His bride encourage us in our walk of faith today?

Promontory For those who are married, what ways do you find it is easiest to fulfil the role God has given you in marriage? What is the hardest? Do you have any patterns in your marriage to help you continually work on them? For those who are not married, how can you fulfil the call to glorify God? (see 1 Cor 7)

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*"Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them." - Psalm 111:2*